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Identical letters dated 7 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to you regarding another serious violation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). On the evening of 26 December 2009, a unit of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) noticed suspicious individuals in the area of Mazraat Sarda, Lebanon, near Al-Khiyam (south of the Litani River, roughly one kilometre from the Israeli-Lebanese border). When the UNIFIL patrol approached, the suspicious figures fled the scene. An ensuing search of the area by UNIFIL revealed a number of buried explosive devices totalling roughly 300 kilograms. Israel has reason to believe that the explosives in question are of an advanced nature and were possibly industrially produced in Iran or Syria. Israel further believes that the types of explosives and the manner in which they were deployed demonstrate that it was Hizbullah operatives that, in fact, planted the aforementioned explosives.

This incident is only the latest in a series of violations in the last six months by Hizbullah as it maintains and builds its military arsenal south of the Litani River. Such incidents clearly reflect a pattern of a military build-up in civilian areas in southern Lebanon. As in the recent incidents in Khirbat Salim and Tayr Filsi, this military build-up is carried out by Hizbullah in close proximity to civilian areas and along main traffic thoroughfares in a manner that presents serious risks to the Lebanese civilian population and to UNIFIL, as well as to the peace and stability of the region.

Israel regards the Government of Lebanon as fully responsible for all such violations and any resulting implications. The Lebanese Government must take serious steps in order to tackle the growing phenomenon of Hizbullah military activity, particularly in civilian villages. Israel expects a full and prompt investigation into the circumstances of this incident and would request that the results of the investigation be provided to the relevant parties and the members of the Security Council as soon as possible. Israel continues to await the results of the investigation of the explosion of the Hizbullah arms depot in Tayr Filsi.

Israel further welcomes the efficient activity of UNIFIL forces during this recent violation, which demonstrates the important role of UNIFIL to maintain peace and security in southern Lebanon. However, the fact that this latest discovery by UNIFIL took place at night demonstrates the ongoing need to intensify UNIFIL's activities at all times.

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In view of this growing mountain of evidence of Hizbullah military activities south of the Litani River, Israel expects this issue to be given the appropriate attention in the upcoming report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), as well as during the Security Council's deliberations on this matter.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gabriela **Shalev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative